Transportation & Utilities Meeting 7/15

Call to order 5:37PM

In attendance: Joe Canter, Larry Pierce, Evelyn joined later, RJ Shostak, Chris Russell, Amy Renner

Guests: Nick Tepe – Director of Athens County Library Services & Ben Howard --- Consultant with Ohio RCAP

Amy- grant opportunity with Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and AEP to support community Wifi equipment and installation for a wifi access point. Nick Tepe has joined to discuss what all this entails since the library has been doing something similar.

Nick- I got confirmation from Agile that the Village Park will work for a microwave connection because it would reach Peach Ridge Tower. This is like what we have at several of our other branches, and that their costs related to that would be $500 for the installation and $38 per month for service. I have a request out to our IT support company for the gateway and WiFi router that we would want to install attached to the Agile equipment, and will be talking with them on Thursday for a quote. But based on the work they did for us before their cost should be an additional $2200. You would also want to include something for power at the site and a lockable weatherproof electrical enclosure for the equipment, but I imagine that $500 should cover that as long as there is already power at the shelter. The library managing it will mean there will be websites that are blocked like pornographic sites. Most people at the library are accessing Youtube, Facebook, and email. Sheriffs office believe many people are using Facebook to conduct illegal activity but we believe that's a small amount of Facebooks traffic.

Larry- why do we expect taxpayers to pay for Wifi at the park?

Amy- First, Nick is there a way to reach beyond just the park if we find other access points to the tower?

Nick- yes

Amy- with school being likely to move online I think it would be beneficial to provide kids with free wifi. I reached out to the school if they would want to be involved in this project and haven't heard back.

Joe- what is the Village cost?

Amy- the grant covers equipment and installation so the Village would pay for service which is $38 per month

RJ- I think it's a nice idea but what I think Larry is getting at is why are we giving mountain bikers at the park free wifi? And there will be cars parking at the park to use it and people hanging out at the park

Larry- exactly

Amy- the wifi would not be for the bikers, for the kids

Joe- Wifi is not a right, I don't think it's our responsibility to provide wifi

Amy- responsibility to help the kids, will look into seeing if access points could be added to provide wider coverage

Amy- Ben Howard with RCAP is here to help go over their sewer rate analysis, He's been a huge help to the Village in all things sewer

Ben- shared screen to show sewer analysis data. RCAP will be coming to the Village in the fall to conduct an assessment of the sewer lines. Does the average sewer bill look accurate?

Joe- my bill is very close to that

Ben- the Village ideally would have several sewer fund accounts to save money and prepare for emergencies. A whole sewer line replacement would be $4.9 million based on engineer Michael Betts assessment. Need to pay off debt with sewer rate increase. Suggesting raising the rate 10% the remainder of the year then on Jan. 1 do a 7.5% increase and continue making increases for inflation.

Joe- were you able to evaluate the water?

Ben- no but we might be able to

Amy- is the 3.5% inflation standard and could be used for water?

Ben- Yes

Larry- the rates need to raise

Joe- this is our fault for not raising the rates regularly so now we need to catch up

Larry- I agree

Amy- Chris are the laterals potentially part of the I&I problem?

Chris- could be, that's the responsibility of the owner

Joe- maybe we need to do a smoke test to see

Ben- we could bring our smoke equipment out

Larry- we flood, when it floods the water is very high, is that why the I&I is so high? How can you get covered manholes, doesn't it need air to get in

Amy- chris and I were on a call with a sewer technician for RCAP who was surprised we didn't have covered manholes in the lower end and suggested we do that. RCAP might have more info for us once they do their assessment

Chris- Oscar thinks the I&I is leaking through the clay pipes and that the manholes aren't going to fix the problem

Amy- how does the 10% rate increase sound

Joe- needs to happen unfortunately, how soon can we get this going?

Amy- not sure, ordinances and resolutions are hard to get done right now.

Ben- I can send a draft ordinance

Amy- I compiled water rates from other municipalities, I think our over minimum rate is much too low compared to others.

Joe- I don't think we should be comparing too much to others

Amy- should we just do an inflation increase every year with sewer?

Joe- yes

Amy- how do you suggest we present this to council?

Joe- condense the info so it's easier to read

Chris- RJ was able to get a hold of Mr. Lopez about the trailer park. Abdella is looking for an agreement with the Village for the Village to maintain streets, water, and sewer in the trailer park. Need an easement from the new owner allowing us on to the property to get to water and sewer lines.

Amy- was HAPCAP able to pay off outstanding water and sewer balances?

Chris- Yes all but 4 because those 4 are signing up for their assistance program, HAPCAP sent the commitment letters. Erin Pierce was one of the bills that would have gotten shut off that HAPCAP is helping. No shut offs needed to be done today so we are caught up. We shared HAPCAP's letter through mail, dropped off to doors, and gave to people at the office.

Amy- I posted on Facebook and it got a lot of shares.

Motion to Adjourn. Joe 1st, Larry 2nd, all in favor.